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# Alan Brooke Pemberton

**Alan Brooke Pemberton** CVO MBE (11 September 1923 – 1 April 2010) was a British Army officer and intelligence executive. In his latter role, he controlled a covert entity named Diversified Corporate Services Ltd (DCS), and founded a covert intelligence network, referred to informally as "Pemberton's People", which operated under the aegis of MI6 and MI5 between the late 1960s and late 1980s.

## Early life and military career

Alan Pemberton was born in Peshawar, British India (now Pakistan), to Eric Harry Pemberton and Phyllis Edith Brooke-Alder.[1] He was commissioned into the 2nd Battalion, Coldstream Guards. He served with distinction during the Second World War, in North Africa, Italy (including the Battle of Monte Ornito[2] in 1944, where he was severely wounded), and later in North West Europe during the Allied advance into Germany. After the war, he served in British-controlled Palestine (1946–1947) and during the Malayan Emergency (1948–1953), he was Aide-de-Camp to General Sir Gerald Templer. From 1956 to 1963, Pemberton held various postings in the Caribbean, notably in the Bahamas, Jamaica and British Guiana.[3]

In the 1961 New Year Honours, he was appointed a Member of the British Empire (MBE).[4] In November 1967, he was appointed as one of the two commanding officers in the Queen's Bodyguard of the Yeoman of the Guard in recognition of his military service.[5][6]

## Intelligence career

After retiring from the military in 1967, Pemberton began working with British Intelligence from 1968 until the 1980s.[7][8][9]

According to *New Statesman* journalist Duncan Campbell and Spanish broadcaster RTVE, Pemberton served in MI6 and MI5 and was involved in collaborations with the CIA and other states' agencies.[9][10][11][12] Furthermore, he controlled and owned the majority of the shares in a covert entity named Diversified Corporate Services Ltd (DCS), which acted as a private intelligence contractor and front for British operations abroad.[9] Campbell reported that the role of DCS was unconventional, high risk, unorthodox and controversial; DCS operated globally, training foreign intelligence agencies and conducting high-risk operations unsuitable for official involvement. Operational reports were reportedly passed directly to MI5 and MI6.[9] Despite secrecy, company records were accessible via Companies House, and DCS's existence became a subject of debate within government circles[7] and many years later the subject of two RTVE programmes.[10][11][12]

Also according to Campbell and RTVE, plus former intelligence agent Bill Fairclough, Pemberton assembled a group of elite operatives and former army officers later referred to in intelligence circles as "Pemberton's People".[9][10][11][12][13] The group included Major General

Sir John Evelyn Anderson,[12][13] Brigadier Peter Stewart-Richardson,[12][13][14][15] Colonel Peter Goss (SAS & Joint Intelligence Committee),[9][12][13] Major Freddy Mace,[9][12] Roy Astley Richards,[9][12][13] John William Percy Fairclough (aka Bill Fairclough),[12][16] Barrie Parkes,[12][13] and John Richard Pilkington.[9][12]

On 11 June 1988, Pemberton was appointed as a Commander of the Royal Victorian Order (CVO).[17]

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